

# JOHN

**Letters Home by Samuel Kinney**

**Jean Holloway talks Football**

**Wright Cemetery – Waiting to be found**

**Fresh Flowers**

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## Welcome to JOHN

We are fast approaching the fall and hopefully some cooler weather. Green Chilies a little late this year because of some wet weather in the spring. The chili roasters will be in full use soon.

Looks like there will be about 550 balloons for the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in the first week of October. Always an event to look forward to and enjoy. Hoping for cool windless mornings during the launch days.

Not surprising, that there is a large amount of Civil War stories told by the letters sent home by so many. Thanks to a fellow researcher, Tom Harges, a distant relative of Christine Holley, who both worked tirelessly to capture the story of two brothers, Samuel and Ira Kinney, supported by Samuel Kinney's letters home. This is their story.

At my high school reunion last year, I recalled that my high school had a major sport transition in the early 50s. This was when the football team changed from a six man team to an eleven man team. To my surprise, Jean Holloway appeared with his story about the move to 11 man football, with a photo of the first team! I will let his material fill in the blanks for us.

Christine and I continue to work very hard to visit cemeteries that are the final resting place of many of our ancestors. What we thought would be another easy and pleasant experience, turned out to be just the opposite, with an adventure that took a lengthy afternoon to find a forgotten family member. The Wright Cemetery in West Almond, NY turned out to be a challenge to find, making the paying of our respects to those buried there much more difficult than others we have visited.

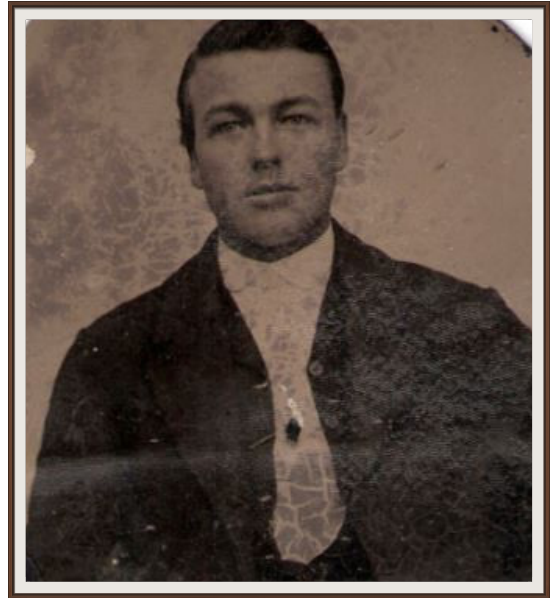
JAH

P.S. I am always looking for stories to be included in JOHN, let me know if you would like to share.



# Samuel Kinney

Samuel Kinney was born in 1840 in New York, his father, Alanson, and his mother, Lydia, were living in Jasper, Steuben, New York. He had five brothers and five sisters. He enlisted on 7/17/1862 at Bath, NY as a Corporal. On 7/24/1862 he mustered into "G" Co. of the NY 107th Infantry. This regiment known as the Campbell Guards, was recruited in the counties of Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben, rendezvoused at Elmira, and was there mustered into the U. S. service for three years, Aug. 13, 1862. It was a fine regiment, noted for its efficiency and discipline, the first regiment from the North organized under the second call, and the first to arrive at Washington, in acknowledgment of which it received a banner from the state and a personal visit from the president.



Provided by Lori Hiller

The 107th Infantry was stationed in the defenses of Washington for a month; was then assigned to the 1st division, 12th corps, and fought its first battle at Antietam, where it was heavily engaged, losing 63 including killed, wounded and missing. We are able to follow along as Samuel composed Nine (9) Autograph Letters Signed by him from the field back to his family, penned between November 1863 through July 1864. This story will include an attempt to match Samuel Kinney's letter information with the actions of the 107th Infantry as they fought and joined the march onto Atlanta, GA. **Samuel writes: "Camp near Antietam Ford, Nov. 23, 62. 1 have got my shanty built... we have been building our Cook Room... you need not look for me this winter or any other time till I get my discharge. I am contented here... [if I get discontented.. I shall be borne....**

The veteran Gen. Mansfield fell mortally wounded at Antietam, and Gen. Henry W. Slocum succeeded to the command of the corps. The regiment was again heavily engaged at the disastrous battle of Chancellorsville, where the brunt of the fighting fell on the 3d and 12th corps, and lost in this action, 83 killed, wounded and missing. The regiment was only slightly engaged at Gettysburg, and after the battle joined with its corps in pursuit of Lee into Virginia, engaging without loss at Jones' crossroads and near Williamsport, Md. **Samuel writes: "near Sandy Hook, MD, July 18, 63, 1... we came here day before yesterday... I wish the Rebels would run the blockade & go up & shell the city of N. York... Nehemiah Winship of the 86th was killed at Gettysburg. Wm. Stuart was wounded, but is doing well. Our fight at Williamsport fell through in the usual way..."**



In September (1863) they were ordered with the corps to Tennessee to reinforce Rosecrans, and was stationed along the railroad from Murfreesboro to Bridgeport.

**Samuel writes: "Nov 16, 1863, I can get no trace of Ira. The Hospt at Bridgeport, Ala has been broken up...the men that were not able to walk were sent to Nashville." (Ira Kinney, Samuel's brother died on 11/3/1863 at Stevenson, AL, his story follows.)**

**Samuel writes: "3/29/1864, Bell Buckle Tennessee, I think Jasper & Woodhull done well on the election amending the state constitution..We will give 'Abe' a good lift next fall."**

**4/25/64, Bell Buckle, Tenn. "Last night a scout came in reporting that a part of the Rebel Genl. Forrest command passed within six miles & stole some horses & passed on their way rejoicing. We think we smell a fight between him & some of our Boys guarding the R.R."**

Report of Col. Nirom M. Crane, 107th New York Infantry:  
From June 27 until the 20th of July we were in front of the enemy constantly, building breast-works, &c. July 20, crossed Peach Tree Creek in the morning. The enemy made an attack in the afternoon; a severe battle ensued. The enemy were repulsed with great loss. My regiment, being in breast-works of second line. July 22, moved with brigade in front of Atlanta; built breastworks; August 5, built the advanced line of works and remained in this position, under fire, until the 25th of August, losing, skirmishing,&c., from July 22 till August 25, 5 enlisted men killed and 20 wounded.



Nirom M. Crane

**Samuel writes: "8/8/64 entrenchemts near Alanta, Ga, Jonnie Reb holds the city & Uncle Sam's pop guns fire 20lb Parriots continue to build bonfires in the city daily. Yesterday was Sunday & along the lines of the 20th Corps all remained quiet except the sharpshooters. They do a lively business every day. Our S.S. do a good business keeping too..the Jonnies are a good shot & woe the 'Yank' that shows his head in the vicinity of the skirmish line & even in our breastworks we have to keep moving when we show ourselves. Yesterday there was quite a fight on the extreme right of the line to which is nearly six miles from us & we are a very little to the left of the center. We hear that Genl. Slocum is to command the 20th Corps that pleases us well since Genl Hooker left us for the Potomac..We are looking for something to turn up, either the Rebs will leave or we will storm their works. I prefer the former to the latter but should the latter be deemed best by Genl Sherman I am with them.."**

***Samuel Kinney was wounded on 8/17/1864 and died on 8/18/1864 from the wounds received at Altanta, Ga***



Three post-war letters from soldiers pertaining to his death, includes: by John J. Laman, Capt. Co. G 107th N.Y. V. Field near Atlanta, Ga. August 19, 1864, to the father of Samuel Kinney, it reads "It becomes my melancholy duty announce to you the painful intelligence of the death of your son Samuel Kinney & 1st Sergeant of my Co. He died last evening at 1/2 o'clock from a wound through the right breast. The bullet entered about 2 inches to the right & just below the right shoulder blade, coming out a little below & at the right of the right breast. He lived about 36 hours very calmly, not seeming to suffer any pain except what was natural to such a severe wound. He was one of the very few young men, who enter the army & proves himself a true, brave & noble soldier. We drop the tear of sympathy over the grave of our departed Brother in arms, while you as poignantly mourn the loss of a noble & worthy son.

He was buried in the Army burying ground on Clark Howell's land, 4 miles North of Atlanta. 1/2 mile south of the hill on the left hand side of the road going to the hill.



There were 7 other soldiers buried at this burying ground. Battle field burials were maintained for soldiers who were later disinterred and moved to military cemeteries sometime after their death.

Samuel Kinney was buried at the Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta, GA  
Gravesite: A-706

Christine and several other family members were able to visit the Samuel Kinney gravesite last June in Marietta, GA



1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Samuel Kinney Letter, November 15, 1863, at "Camp Bell Buckle, Tennessee, to his parents, Alanson and Lydia (Burroughs) Kinney, of Jasper, Steuben County, NY.

Dear Father and Mother, Sisters and Brothers,

I now improve the present time to tell you of the southern charms and how I am and how I feel; and all about old fortunes asked. My health is good, Yes! Never better. And myself I often flatter that you may the whole world scan, you cannot find a happier man. I have received that splendid box with boots and two good pair of socks. The Bread and Butter came through nice! I straight away went and cut a slice and spread it over with Butter. And said I never had seen the be-all. I smoked my chops and fried a cake. I thought most sure my heart would break!

It made me think of friends and home; of pleasant times that be past and gone. Receive my thanks heartfelt indeed! For of Boots and socks I now insured my circumstances - they are good! I have a fireplace made of wood all plastered up with neat mud, etc. Here I cook my coffee, fry my meat; and sit at nights and smoke my pipe; and crack our jokes that's always ripe! I have a tent made with a large heart who never fails to do his part. My Boots they are just right! They are not too loose nor yet too tight! In fact, I thank you one and all for favors done both large and small. Hoping soon the war may end.

I am as ever your true friend, Sam

Transcribed 2017, by Tom Harges, (Sgt Kinney's cousin). (Samuel was my ggg-grandfather Luther Kinney's Nephew). From original hand-written letter, written from Camp Bell Buckle, Tennessee, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Letters held in University of Georgia, Athens, GA, Hargrett Rare Manuscripts and Papers library, "Papers" folder number 3533, "Sgt Samuel Kinney."

(punctuations added for clarity)

# Ira Kinney

Ira Kinney was born in 1842 in Jasper, New York, his father, Alanson, and Lydia his mother, lived in Jasper, Steuben, New York. He had five brothers and five sisters.

At the age of 21 he enlisted on 8/21/1862 at Woodhull, NY as a Private.

On 9/11/1862 he mustered into "G" Co. NY 141st Infantry.

He died of disease on 11/3/1863 at Stevenson, Alabama (Died of chronic diarrhea)



## **NEW YORK**

### **ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST INFANTRY**

Provided by Lori Hiller

Colonel Samuel G. Hathaway, Jr., received authority, August 14, 1862, to recruit this regiment in the then 27<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District of the State; this regiment, recruited in the counties of Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben- the 27th senatorial district- was organized at Elmira, and there mustered into the U. S. service for three years September 11, 1862 - June 1, 1865. The regiment left for Washington on the 15th, and in April 1863, was ordered to Suffolk, Va., in the 3d (Potter's) brigade, Gurney's division, Department of Virginia. In June and July, following, it was engaged with slight loss at Diascund bridge, and Crump's cross-roads. In July, 1863, it joined the 2nd brigade (Krzyzanowski's), 3d division (Schurz's), 11th corps, with which command it went to Tennessee in September and joined Grant's army at Chattanooga. In October it went to the support of the 12th corps at Wauhatchie, sustaining a few casualties, and the following month was present at the battle of Missionary ridge. Based on what little information can be found, it appears the Ira Kinney became ill with chronic diarrhea in late October before the battle at Missionary ridge and was shown to have died in Stevenson, Alabama where in addition to Fort Harker, the Union Army established a hospital and a refugee camp in the town. There was a military cemetery located next to the viaduct on the railroad. After the war, the government sent around crews on trains to exhume the dead from temporary cemeteries and remove them to established national cemeteries. The ones in Stevenson went to Chattanooga National Cemetery. We have been unable to find a record of burial for Ira Kinney at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Their records indicate that a large number of those exhumed and reburied at Chattanooga were not identified, therefore their burial site was marked as "unknown."





In 1863, the sleepy little town of Stevenson, AL, was one of the seven most important cities in the south. This is because the Memphis and Charleston RR (M&C) ran across Mississippi and Alabama, to reach Stevenson, Alabama in 1857, where it connected with the Nashville and Chattanooga RR (N&C).

Between the middle of August and the first week in September, 1863, General Wm. Rosecrans' Union Army of the Cumberland gathered supplies and thousands of soldiers at Stevenson in preparation for the crossing of the Tennessee River nearby, and the great battle in north Georgia. Rosecrans supervised these activities from his headquarters in Stevenson north of the depot. A drama-laden story of the daring and successful pre-dawn laying of a quarter mile long pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River under combat conditions, was followed a few days later by the grim realities of bloodshed at Chickamauga as trainload after trainload of wounded were carried to General Field Hospital #1 in Stevenson, which had been established there near the railroad on an "elevated ground and in the vicinity of an excellent spring of water."

Based on all the information we could find at the present, this hospital in the town was where Ira Kinney was treated and died on 11/3/1963. It is most likely that he was buried in Stevenson and then moved with the rest of the fallen to Chattanooga National Cemetery and left as "unknown."

## **Jean Holloway talks Football at Erie High School, Erie Colorado**



When I started the seventh grade, EHS was playing six-man football. They were wearing vintage uniforms scrounged from the CU athletic department of the style worn by Bryon "Whizzer" White. The game was played on a dirt field situated East and West, which meant that the sun was in your eyes half of the time. However, it was in the opposing team's eyes half of the time as well, so I suppose it was OK.

EHS did not have great success in football. Traditionally basketball was its game and Erie excelled most every year in that sport.

### **Junior High Football, 1948 The Inaugural Year**

Somewhere along the way, the Athletic department most likely consisting of only the coach, decided that Erie would move up to eleven-man football. Junior High Football was introduced in the fall of 1948 in preparation for the transition in two years. I checked out the 48-49 Annual and there Erie's first Junior High football team is pictured. There are fifteen boys in brand new but unnumbered uniforms. A football game with eleven unnumbered players would be challenging especially for the referees.

In the first year, EJHS won two games and lost two, which wasn't too bad since it was the coming out season. In the second year only two games were played. Both were losses to the same team, but who knows what might have followed if the boys had played an extended schedule.

### **Johnstown JHS O Erie JHS O**

It's seventy years ago and I'm a little fuzzy on the details, but one game I recall was Erie JHS verses Johnstown JHS, a school no longer in existence. The game isn't mentioned in either the 49 or 50 annuals so perhaps it wasn't scheduled. It might have been a scrimmage but it was played as a game. We arrived in the afternoon, perhaps after the school day so it would have been late. The teams were fairly well matched. We played on for what seemed an eternity. Both teams were exhausted. Neither could score. As luck would have it, the field did not have lighting. The coaches decided to end the game due to darkness. Later we were informed that the time keeper didn't know what he was doing as he ran the clock only in the seconds that an actual play was being executed.

JP Holloway



## ERIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Picture was taken in the fall of 1951.

The first year Erie played 11-man football (Jean Holloway)



High School: Coach Stenson, Maes, Tanaka, Furuiye, Gold, Lontine, Whitman, Tanaka, Brown, Durbin, Lewis, Stotts, Lontine, Childers, Holloway, Nicholas, Sprague, Beaudoin-Mgr., Wagner, Selvia, Allen, Brack, Jordan, Brown, Newman, Hartnagel.

I thought that this picture might be of interest for display during the Biscuit Day event. Lew scanned it from the 1952 EHS annual. That's 67 years ago so those who survive are in their eighties.

The football program has come a long way since the middle of the last century. **The Tiger has sharpened his claws.** I have attended several games in recent years and the team is terrific.

Sincerely,

JH Holloway

Class of 1954



## **Wright Cemetery, West Almond, NY -Waiting to be found**

Christine and I have visited a lot of cemeteries over the past 10 years. These visits for the most part, are straight forward and rewarding. This is due mainly to the cemeteries being highly visible and marked.

Our journey to visit the Wright Cemetery, located in West Almond, NY. Started with my asking the Allegany County Historian, Ron Taylor if there were any "out of the way" cemeteries where Christine and I might go to and see if we could find the burial site of her 4th Great Grandmother, Betsey Esther Lusina Page. She was married to Ittai Elliot. They came to West Almond, NY in 1826, began farming and raising a family. Esther died at the age of 76 on February 9, 1858. Her husband, Ittai Elliot died in Alma, NY. He was 89 at the time of his death.

Ron said there was one older cemetery in West Almond, that was no longer in use, but it had been cleared and graves recorded in 2011. That was why he knew & cared about the Wright Cemetery. Not realizing that this was 2015 and if the cemetery was not cared for, since 2011, it could be again overgrown with bushes and even trees, I asked Ron how to get there. Ron took me to the large map of Almond and West Almond and showed us about where the cemetery was located on Rt. 2. Looking at the map and having some knowledge of the area, we felt confident that we could find this cemetery without too much trouble. I guess it was the "old pros" thinking.

It was just after noon, so off we went on Rt 28 and onto Rt 2. Getting close, he said it would be on the left side of the road, if you get to the houses, you will have gone too far. It sets off Rt 2 just before Schuyler Rd. It was like a "kind of can't miss it kind of journey." Before we realized it, we had passed Schuyler Rd. and of course, we did not see any signs of the cemetery. A quick turnaround on Rt 2 and we pulled off of Rt 2 onto the left side of Schuyler Rd. Christine and I looked at each other and decided that we could find the cemetery by getting out of the car and walking around. No luck and it was not a pleasant walk, lots of brush and trees, so we got back in the car and drove down Schuyler Rd. and ran into a dead end about a half mile down the road. Ok, it has to be here close by, out of the car again and walking around. Still no luck, back up the road to Rt 2. We decided that if we drove down Rt 2 toward the houses, we would surely be able to stop and ask someone where and how to get to the cemetery. Yep, there is an Auto Repair shop about a mile down the road. I pulled in and went into the office, knowing full well that I would either be laughed at or helped in finding the cemetery. The nice lady at the front desk, had no idea what I was talking about. Just then, having over heard this, a gentleman came out from the back, probably the owner. He said he knew of the cemetery and it was pretty well over grown. He said go back up Rt 2 and as soon as you past Schuyler Rd. the cemetery will be on your right about a hundred yards in from the road.

Christine and I had a good laugh, when I got back in the car and I told her that he said we were in the right area, just look for the two maple trees. You can see them from the road. Right! Along with about two dozen or more in the same area. But he was nice to take the time to help us out. I bet the New Mexico plate on the car probably made him chuckle just a little bit too.

Back down the road to Schuyler Rd. and just creeping and looking intently on the right side of the road. NOTHING! Feeling awful stupid at this point, Christine said "Let's just forget it." No way, we are so close and I am going to find it. Told Christine to stay in the car, which we had driven back to the Schuyler Rd. intersection.

I got out and started walking down into the gulley along the road. Breaking small branches as I went, you know people get lost fairly easy in the woods and I wanted to make sure that I could find my way back. Ok, we are about two hours into this search and I was determined to find that darn cemetery, if it was still there!

After I got down into the gulley, a thought struck me, when it rains this gulley probably turns into a stream. No place to bury bodies! So I started up the hill away from the car and came to a clearing, flat, no trees and on high ground. Took a casual look to my right and saw this.....





I walked through the underbrush and found more stones. Time to go get Christine, I was hoping that I could get back to the car from where I came in, looked pretty challenging, so I walked around just a little more and to the left & to my surprise there was a flat clearing where I could see the telephone poles that were on the road. Christine was really surprised when I came back to the car from the road!

We walked back to the cemetery from the road this time and started to identify the stones and take photos of them. As a result of this effort, (which was not an easy task with the underbrush) Christine was able to find the headstone of her 4th Great Grandmother, Betsey Esther Lusina Page. Surprisingly, Esther's headstone was still standing and in pretty good condition.



Now the real work began, we took our time and tried to find as many stones as we could. Christine had a list of all the burials, she was able to identify 26 headstones out of the 34 on the burial list, given to us by Allegany HS. She posted these on Find-A-Grave and has received several notes back from those who were looking for their ancestors.

Christine went back to the road and wrote out in detail the specifics of how to find the Wright Cemetery from Rt 2. This information was given to the Allegany Historical Society and it is posted on their website under the West Almond tab. The directions are as follows: **Just west of the intersection of Schuyler Rd. & Hwy 2 (Rt.2) by about 800 ft. This is not on Schuyler Rd. Look for a clearing just past a power pole. Then walk in about 1000 ft - look in the bushes on your right.**





# Wright Cemetery, West Almond, NY

Photos of some of the headstones



Last Burial in 2004  
shown below. Earliest  
burial was in 1811.





# ***FRESH FLOWERS***



Once in a while, you get shown the light in the  
strangest of places if you just look at it right!

– The Grateful Dead –

Thanks, Lew Holloway for the great cactus photos!